1. - 9. (cancelled)

10.-15. (withdrawn)

16. (currently amended) A method for distributed remote network ~~monitor~~ monitoring (dRMON) ~~in LAN~~ in a LAN comprising:

    deploying, within each of a plurality of ESs to be monitored, ~~dRMON agents~~ executable code comprising an dRMON agent associated with the ES ~~that communicate~~ configured to communicate with a dRMON proxy connected to the LAN ~~within ESs to be monitored~~, each ~~said~~ dRMON ~~agents~~ agent implementing RMON functional groups but only capturing and analyzing packets ~~that their native ES sends or receives~~ transmitted and/or received by the ES;

    forwarding, periodically by the dRMON agents, ~~on a periodic basis having the dRMON agents forward~~ agent data including statistics and/or captured packets to said dRMON proxy~~, existing somewhere on the LAN~~; and

    combining ~~received~~ the forwarded agent data ~~thereby creating~~ at the dRMON proxy ~~a view that a stand-alone RMON probe would have if all the ES were on the same LAN segment with it~~.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein said dRMON proxy ~~can mimic the SNMP responses of a prior art non-distributed RMON probe~~ includes a set of SNMP interfaces so that existing network application management software can interact with said dRMON proxy as though said dRMON proxy were a non-distributed RMON probe.

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein in a default mode, ESs in the same multicast domain are treated by a dRMON proxy as though they are on one LAN segment to RMON applications that interact with the dRMON proxy though it were a RMON probe ~~and a user is provided with the ability to combine~~ such that ports and hosts are combinable ~~in order~~ to create Virtual LAN (VLAN) definitions to cause the monitoring function to ~~behave~~ operate as though all selected hosts were on the same LAN segment being served by the same RMON probe with the dRMON proxy ~~in this embodiment~~ creating and maintaining several such views with each appearing as one interface to RMON management applications.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 whereby said dRMON agents perform continual response time monitoring and forward ~~the~~ monitoring results to the dRMON Proxy.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 whereby said ~~software~~ executable code utilizes native OS APIs to gather information about the ES that could not be gathered via packet capture and analysis, said information being selected from the group consisting of: (1) Network protocol stack configurations and NIC configurations including problematic situations; (2) Application information ~~ranging from~~ including what protocols an application is bound to, to its manufacturer, version, file date and time, DLLs used and their versions; (3) System information such as memory, CPU, disk space, current resource utilizations; and (4) System performance metrics.

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21.-24. (withdrawn)